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# Newsletter



OFFICE FOR FOOD AND FEED CONSERVATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## WASHINGTON ROUNDUP

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics has released its latest report on the national food situation. This report points out that during the late spring and summer months total supplies of food will be slightly smaller than they were during the same period last year. Food prices, moreover, are likely to stay above 1947 levels even though there will be seasonal decreases in the prices of some foods.

Exports of food in 1948 will be lower than the 1947 record in part because supplies available for export from this country will be smaller. The report declares:

"Despite improved prospects for European crops this year, sizeable imports are again needed to allow more nearly adequate rations and also to restore stocks to reasonable working levels. Congress recently approved foreign aid measures authorizing an expenditure of 6.1 billion dollars in 1948-49. Nearly one-third of this amount may be used for the purchase of agricultural commodities in the United States."

So far this year meat supplies have been moderately smaller than the early part of 1947. And prospects are that they will decline more than usual this summer, reaching the year's low point in the late summer or early fall. The 1948 spring pig crop is indicated to be about 10 per cent smaller than that of the previous year. The 1948 fall pig crop may be the smallest in ten years if hog producers react in their usual manner to the present below average hog-corn price ratio. This will mean smaller supplies of pork next spring and summer.

In other meat categories, some reduction from 1947 supplies is also indicated for beef and lamb. The number of cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1948 was 8 per cent less than the record number held at the beginning of 1945. Furthermore the number of cattle on grain feed for market in the corn belt on April 1 was 25 per cent smaller than a year earlier so that the proportion of beef from grain fed animals will be much smaller during the coming months than in 1947. The 1948 early spring lamb crop was 10 per cent smaller than a year earlier and the smallest on record.

Prospects are good for continuing large supplies of fruits and vegetables in 1948. Supplies of citrus fruits from the 1947-48 crop are large for this time of year. Spring vegetable supplies for fresh market from commercial areas are expected to total 12 per cent above the 1937-46 average.

This report indicates the need for extending meat dishes with plentiful and relatively economical vegetables. One way of doing this is to follow the menus and recipes in the booklet, "Money-Saving Main Dishes." This booklet may be obtained simply by writing your name and address on a penny postal card and mailing it to the Office for Food and Feed Conservation, Washington 25, D. C.

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Among the foods expected to be in plentiful supply during June are fresh cauliflower, celery, potatoes and spinach; fresh citrus fruits; canned peas, pumpkin, sweetpotatoes, tomato products, apples and apple products, citrus juices, grapefruit segments and fresh prunes; dried prunes, raisins, peaches and figs; fruit spreads; honey; peanut butter; fresh and frozen fish; and eggs.

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In a recent statement, Noble Clark, Acting Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, declared that two-thirds or more of the world's population is malnourished by modern standards. He continued:

"One of the inevitable effects of hunger in a nation is a breakdown of the confidence which citizens have in their government. People cannot be expected to have much loyalty to a government which compels them, and their children, to go to bed hungry from one end of the year to another. Hungry and desperate people are responsible for most of the strife and the violence which today threaten the peace of the world... Surely it is no exaggeration to say that increased food supplies are just about the most urgent requirement if the world is to be saved from the unthinkable catastrophes which hungry and desperate people, acting they believe from necessity, may unwittingly bring about."

Mr. Clark pointed out that even in the United States the current world food shortage is profoundly disturbing the economy. He talked about inflation as a major threat to the welfare and future prosperity of the United States. Then he added:

"Certainly all will agree that inflation will not be checked while the effective demand for food outruns the supply, and food prices continue to rise."

#### FREEDOM GARDENS

A Freedom Garden Program in the Bronx, New York City, is well under way. George Harvey Wilde, General Secretary of the Program, writes:

"We are arousing tremendous interest in the Freedom Gardens program and will need at least 5,000 copies of 'Get More From Your Freedom Garden.'"

"The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are doing an exceptionally fine job in getting this program to the people."

"Enclosed you will find a copy of a leaflet we have had printed as a help. We are also obtaining the latest and most complete data on all phases of gardening for distribution to our Bronx people."

"Thank you kindly for your cooperation and assistance in putting this program over."



The Bronx leaflet contains "10 simple rules for success" in home gardening. It contains some excellent advice and, on the back page, lists a planting time-table with information such as spacing plants, depth of seed planting, etc.

If you wish to get copies of the pamphlet, "Get More From Your Freedom Garden," write to the Office for Food and Feed Conservation, Washington 25, D. C.

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Phil Alampi, Radio Farm Director of Station WJZ in New York City, has inaugurated a program entitled "The Freedom Gardener." It is broadcast each Saturday from 12 to 12:30 P. M.

Mr. Alampi sent us a script of the May 22 broadcast which featured an interview with Andrew Wing, Executive Secretary of the National Garden Institute. The program is a real guide to home gardeners.

Of particular interest to us was Mr. Wing's reply to a question as to how much money could be saved in an average home garden. Mr. Wing answered:

"Of course, a lot depends on how big your plot is and how good a gardener you are. We have actual records of lots of people who save from fifty to one hundred dollars a season in a small garden. Our prize winning gardener, Doris Gnauck, a twenty-one year old college student from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, averaged a profit of over \$700 a year for the five years from 1943 to 1947. She didn't sell all of this produce, of course, but that was the market price of it over and above expenses."

#### WAR-STUNTED CHILDREN

An Associated Press story from Laghorne, Penna., quotes a French health authority as saying that malnutrition during the war lowered the height of French children by as much as 2 inches.

The article reads in part:

"Dr. Alice Doumic, of the Ancien Interne des Hospitaux de Paris, told a child research clinic at Woods School that malnutrition also affected child development and behavior and that cases of child delinquency due to stealing were three times greater in 1943 than in 1938.

"She added that only 68.1 per cent of school children surveyed in 1943 had gained weight, as compared with 98 to 99.5 per cent in pre-war years.

"She concluded that 'if we are to plan for world stability, we must provide in the adults of tomorrow the security of mind that comes from proper nourishment in childhood'."

#### MONEY-SAVING MAIN DISHES

Mrs. Mildred H. Galloway, Assistant to the Citizens Food Committee of Memphis, Tenn., writes to tell us that the booklet, "Money-Saving Main Dishes," is "being received with much enthusiasm here in Memphis." She added:

"The 1000 copies ordered by telegram this morning are to be featured in

One of our largest retail department stores. Last week I wrote each such store here. One Director told me he was taking the copy sent him to use in his own home as he had already spotted quite a few recipes he felt his wife would like to try and knew it would mean a saving on his grocery bill."

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The Memphis Commercial Appeal recently carried an editorial which stressed the need for food conservation. It declared:

"Food conservation can save on the grocery bill two ways--by reducing the waste of costly foods, and by increasing the national food supply, which would help hold prices down.

"For those who would like to participate more fully in the food conservation program, the USDA has issued a new publication, 'Money-Saving Main Dishes.' A booklet of recipes, it is designed to encourage economical preparation, use of a variety of foods, better preparation of less costly dishes and conservation of left-overs...

"More elaborate food-saving campaigns have met with a mixed reception from the public. But this is a campaign that can be carried on by the individual homemaker in her own kitchen. It can mean a saving to her and her family, even though others fail to co-operate."

We will keep you informed on events in Washington and the programs of local committees and organizations. We welcome your suggestions and invite you to send us news of your activities in the voluntary food and feed conservation program.

